



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT of
**CORRECTIONS AND
REHABILITATION**

NEWS

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**Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Honors Employees at
Annual Medal of Valor Ceremony**
Calipatria State Prison Staff Member Given Silver Star Award

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation today honored a **Calipatria State Prison** employee for actions above and beyond the normal demands of correctional service. The award was presented by CDCR Secretary Matthew Cate at a ceremony in Sacramento. Some 50 employees received awards that ranged from the Medal of Valor to Unit Citations.

Correctional Officer Miguel U. Morales was honored with the Silver Star Medal.

In October 2009, Officer Miguel Morales and his partner were assigned as floor officers at a Calipatria State Prison Housing Unit, when a group of inmates began to attack his partner. By the time Officer Morales arrived at the upper tier where his partner lay on the ground injured, five inmates were surrounding the victim, kicking and punching him. As Officer Morales tried to intervene, other inmates arrived to begin holding him back and assaulting Officer Morales, leaving him with severe injuries that required he be off work for many months. Responding staff broke up the fight and were able to attend to both officers. Officer Morales' actions were instrumental in saving his partner from more serious injury or death, and put him in a situation where he suffered the gravest injuries.

The Silver Star medal is the Department's third highest award for acts of bravery under extraordinary or unusual circumstances. The employee shall display courage in the face of potential peril while saving or attempting to save the life of another person or distinguish him or herself by performing in stressful situations with exceptional tactics or judgment.

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